

Message Text

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41

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSC-05 EB-07 OMB-01

ACDA-10 SAM-01 /064 W

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O R 111017Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4585

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS LISBON 6036

USIA FOR IOP/M, IEU/MCLAUGHLIN

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SOPN, PO

SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION TO U.S. ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGAL

SUMMARY: INITIAL MEDIA COVERAGE OF ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT U.S.
ASSISTANCE RECEIVED BALANCED, HEAVY COVERAGE IN LISBON PAPERS,
ALTHOUGH TIMING WAS NOT OPTIMUM FOR BEST LOCAL PLAY. END SUMMARY

1. GOOD PLAY IN MORNING PAPERS; WHITE HOUSE/STATE DEPT
ANNOUNCEMENTS ARRIVED LISBON TOO LATE FOR INCLUSION IN OCT 10
EVENING TV NEWSCASTS AND IN IMPORTANT WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS
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PUBLISHED SATURDAY, OCT 11, BUT LISBON'S TWO MORNING DAILIES

CARRIED PROMINENT FRONT-PAGE PLAY OCT 11 OF WIRE-SERVICE COVERAGE. BOTH "O SEculo" AND "DIARIO DE NOTICIAS" USED MULTI-COLUMN SPREAD OF UPI WIREPHOTO SHOWING PRESIDENT FORD MEETING WITH FONMIN MELO ANTUNES. "O SEculo" HAD HEADLINE, "GERALD FORD RECEIVED MINISTER MELO ANTUNES" AND A BASICALLY STRAIGHT-FORWARD REPORT CITED TO OFFICIAL AGENCY ANOP AND REUTERS. AGENCIES QUOTED MELO ANTUNES AS SAYING THE UNITED STATES HAD OFFERED 80 MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGAL -- INCLUDING 35 MILLIONS FOR ANGOLAN REFUGEE PROGRAMS AND AN "UNSPECIFIED SUM" TO ASSIST IN PURCHASE OF A JUMBO JET FOR PORTUGUESE AIRLINE TAP. PAPER QUOTED MELO ANTUNES AS FURTHER STATING THAT HE AND FORD DID NOT DISCUSS "NEWS PRINTED BY U.S. NEWSPAPERS ACCORDING TO WHICH THE SPY AGENCY -- CIA -- HAD GIVEN SEVERAL MILLIONS OF DOLLARS TO THE PORTUGUESE SOCIALIST PARTY." LESS COMPLETE REPORT IN "DIARIO DE NOTICIAS" IS HEADLINED "FORD-MELO ANTUNES MEETING: 80 MILLIONS OF DOLLARS OF AMERICAN ASSISTANCE." IT IS ACCOMPANIED BY FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL CARTOON WHICH SHOWS A FACELESS MAN SITTING IN CHAIR LABELED "SIXTH GOVERNMENT"; PROSTRATE BEFORE HIM ARE TWO TOP-HATTED FIGURES LABELED "U.S." AND "SOCIAL DEMOCRACY" OFFERING BAGS OF MONEY.

2. RADIO COVERAGE IS SPOTTY: GOP-OWNED EMISSORA NACIONAL RADIO NEWWORK HAS BEEN CARRYING STRAIGHTFORWARD REPORTS ABOUT U.S. ASSITANCE AND THE MELO ANTUNES VISIT. RADIO CLUBE PORTUGUES, WHICH SENT REPORTERS WITH MELO ANTUNES PARTY, IGNORED THE REPORT ON NEWSCASTS HEARD MORNING OF OCT 11. CARLUCCI

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